(c) whether Government propose to formulate any rule to ensure the timely payment?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government had enacted the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale & Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993 (as amended in 1998), to ensure that small scale industries (SSI) get timely payment for their products sold to other buyers, including the State Governments. The provision of this Act, with some amendments to make them more rigorous, have been included in the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12th May 2005.

Incentive package for SSIs

3263. SHRI DARA SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to work out a comprehensive incentive package for providing benefits to small scale and medium industries of the country particularly in Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether budgetary allocations is likely to be increased in above States during the financial year 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A package for promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) is under consideration of Government. This package proposes to provide support to the MSME in a number of areas such as credit, infrastructure, technology, marketing, etc. The promotional package, when implemented, will cover the MSME in the entire country, including the States of Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The State Governments are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries. The Central Government does not make any State-wise budgetary allocation under the various schemes/programmes that it implements to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for promotion and development of small enterprises.

Joint Marketing of Data

3264. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to join hands with global majors to launch joint marketing of data as well as research missions;

(b) whether the ISRO is also keen on tying up with France to share and market remote sensing data; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Antrix Corporation, ISRO's marketing division has already set up its office in Beijing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Antrix Corporation Limited, which is a commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation, has entered into a cooperative agreement with Space Imaging Incorporate of USA, which is a leading Earth Observation Company in the global market, to market data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites. Currently this cooperation covers marketing data from IRS-1C, IRS-1D and Resourcesat-1. As regards research missions, ISRO has jointly undertaken with the French National Space Agency (CNES), a scientific satellite mission called Megha-Tropiques in order to study the water cycle in tropical regions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Antrix Corporation Limited has entered into an agreement with Remote Sensing Ground Station under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing to provide access to data from Resourcesat-1 on a commercial basis.